

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 ACDA-12 IO-13 /084 W
-----114189 211144Z /14

R 210935Z DEC 77
FM USMISSION USBERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5890
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USNATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, WB, EG
SUBJECT: GOVERNING MAYOR DRAWS BALANCE ON BERLIN'S CURRENT SITUATION IN EAST-WEST RELATIONS

SUMMARY: IN BRIEF STATEMENT BROADCAST DECEMBER 17 GOVERNING MAYOR STOBBE DREW POSITIVE BALANCE ON CURRENT STATE OF EAST-WEST RELATIONS, STRESSING ABILITY OF WEST GERMANS AND WEST BERLINERS TO VISIT THE EAST AND POINTING OUT HOW QA AND RELATED AGREEMENTS HAVE LED TO SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVED SITUATION IN BERLIN.
END SUMMARY

1. IN HIS REGULAR WEEKLY BROADCAST "WO UNS DER SCHUH DRUECKT" DECEMBER 17, GOVERNING MAYOR DIETRICH STOBBE DREW A POSITIVE BALANCE WITH REGARD TO BERLIN'S PLACE IN CURRENT EAST-WEST RELATIONS. OBSERVING THAT CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEARS WERE TRADITIONAL HOLIDAYS FOR VISITING FRIENDS AND RELATIVES IN THE EASTERN PART OF BERLIN AND IN THE GDR, STOBBE POINTED OUT THAT

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WHEREAS SEVEN YEARS AGO SUCH VISITS WERE IMPOSSIBLE, THEY HAVE NOW BECOME A MATTER OF COURSE. SINCE THE VISITOR ARRANGEMENTS WENT INTO EFFECT IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE SIGNING OF THE QA, OVER 18 MILLION VISITS HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT BY WEST BERLINERS GOING TO EAST BERLIN AND THE GDR. STOBBE DECLARED THIS FIGURE WAS A CLEAR SIGN THAT WEST BERLINERS UNDERSTOOD AND MADE USE OF THE POLITICAL

ACHIEVEMENTS WHICH HAD BEEN OBTAINED FOR THEM.

2. STOBBE ALSO STATED THAT THE SITUATION IN AND AROUND BERLIN HAS BECOME SUBSTANTIALLY MORE STABLE BECAUSE OF THE TREATIES AND AGREEMENTS OF THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS. THE GOVERNING MAYOR REMINDED HIS LISTENERS THAT BERLINERS NO LONGER HAVE FEARS OF GREAT CRISES WHICH COULD THREATEN THEIR FREEDOM AS WAS SO OFTEN THE CASE IN THE PAST. STOBBE STRESSED THAT THE SECURITY OF THE CITY AND THE ABILITY FOR HUMAN CONTACT WITH GERMANS IN THE EAST WAS THE HEART OF A POLICY WHICH RECOGNIZED "THE REALITIES IN GERMANY" AND WHICH HAS DEALT APPROPRIATELY WITH THOSE REALITIES. STOBBE POINTED OUT THAT POLICY OF RECOGNIZING REALITY WAS DIRECTED AT ACHIEVING PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS TO ALLEVIATE DAY-TO-DAY PROBLEMS. STOBBE SAID HE CAN NOT ACCEPT THE CESSATION OF THIS POLICY; THE DIALOGUE WITH THE OTHER SIDE MUST BECOME MORE DYNAMIC; THE LOGIC OF GERMAN POST-WAR HISTORY DEMONSTRATES THAT IT IS NECESSARY TO FIND A BALANCE OF INTERESTS BETWEEN EAST AND WEST.

3. QUOTING THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR TO THE FRG JEAN-PIERRE BRUNET, THAT BERLIN HAS NEVER BEEN MORE SECURE FROM OUTSIDE THREATS SINCE THE END OF THE WAR, STOBBE SOUNDED AGAIN ONE OF HIS OWN CENTRAL POLICY LINES, NAMELY THAT THE TIME HAS COME FOR BERLINERS TO FOCUS THEIR ATTENTION ON THE INTERNAL DEVELOPMENT OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THEIR CITY. "THERE IS NO OTHER PLACE IN EUROPE" HE SAID, "IN WHICH IT IS MORE IMPORTANT THAT THE FUNDAMENTAL VALUES FOR WHICH WE LIVE MUST BE ALLOWED TO DEVELOP IN A CONVINCING AND LASTING FASHION." STOBBE CALLED UPON THE CITIZENS OF BERLIN TO SET AS A MAJOR GOAL THE REVITALIZATION OF BERLIN'S SOCIAL AND CULTURAL ATTRACTIVENESS TO OUTSIDERS (LITERALLY, AUSSTRAHLUNGSKRAFT). STOBBE CONCLUDED HIS PRESENTATION BY REMINDING HIS LISTENERS THAT IT IS BY NO MEANS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE STATE TO AFFECT THE NECESSARY ACCOMPLISHMENTS WHICH WILL BRING BERLIN ONCE MORE INTO THE LIMELIGHT. RATHER THIS GOAL CAN ONLY BE OBTAINED WITH CONSCIOUS EFFORT AND ENGAGEMENT OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

4. COMMENT: STOBBE'S DECEMBER 17 "SCHUH" BROADCAST CONTAINS IN CAPSULE FORM MOST OF THE POLICIES AND THEMES WHICH THE GOVERNING MAYOR LIKES TO SOUND PUBLICLY WHEN SPEAKING TO GROUPS AROUND THE CITY: BERLIN'S STABLE SITUATION; THE NEED TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH THE EAST ON A PRACTICAL, HUMAN LEVEL; THE NEED TO RECOGNIZE "REALITY" OF PRESENT POLITICAL SITUATION IN CENTRAL EUROPE; AND THE NEED FOR PRIVATE CITIZENS AND ORGANIZA-

TIONS TO JOIN WITH THE GOVERNMENT IN A COMMON EFFORT TO BRING
ABOUT BY THEIR OWN EFFORTS POSITIVE ACHIEVEMENTS IN BERLIN
WHICH WILL DEMONSTRATE THE CITY'S GREATNESS TO THE WORLD AROUND.
PRESS SPOKESMAN SOETJE OBSERVED TO MISSION OFFICER THAT STOBBE'S
DECEMBER 17 BROADCAST SHOULD HAVE COME AS YEAR-END STATEMENT.
SOETJE SAID HOWEVER, THAT BECAUSE IT WAS MISTIMED (STOBBE IN-
SISTED ON GIVING IT NOW, INSTEAD OF LATER), IT MAY NOT HAVE THE FULL
IMPACT WHICH THE GOVERNING MAYOR HAD HOPED FOR. GEORGE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MAYOR
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977USBERL03191
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770475-0965
Format: TEL
From: USBERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771229/aaaaaykx.tel
Line Count: 124
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 392849fe-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 152202
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOVERNING MAYOR DRAWS BALANCE ON BERLIN'S CURRENT SITUATION IN EAST-WEST RELATIONS SUMMARY: IN BRIEF
STATEMENT BROADCAST DECEMBER 17
TAGS: PGOV, WB, EG
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/392849fe-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009